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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,921	12/19/2001	Huy M. Nguyen	9797-0116-999	8868
24341	7590	10/06/2003	EXAMINER	
Pennie & Edmonds, LLP 3300 Hillview Avenue Palo Alto, CA 94304			LE, DON P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2819	

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/020,921

Applicant(s)

NGUYEN ET AL

Examiner

Don P Le

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-6, 18 and 19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6-10, 20 and 21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 11-13 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14-17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Claim Objections

1. Claims 15-17 are objected to because of the following informalities: claim 15 pendency as written is depends on claim 1 which is incorrect in that claim 1 is an apparatus and claim 15 is a method claim. Correction is required.

It is assumed that claim 15 is depends on claim 11.

Claims 16 and 17 are objected based on their pendency on claim 15.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 11-13 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Thayer et al. (US 5,598,119).

4. With respect to claims 11-13 and 22, figure 2 of Thayer teaches a method of defining performance in a push-pull driver circuit having an output driver current path comprising a first output transistor (P2) and a second output transistor (N2) connected between a voltage source (VDD) and ground, the method comprising:

defining a transmission switching signal for the first and second output transistor (typical operation of circuit 2);

detecting shoot through in the output driver current path (feedback to 211, 213, reduce ringing, which means shoot through, see column 2, lines 50-55, see figures 4);

generating a feedback signal in response to a detection of the shoot-through in the output driver current path (feedback signal to 211, 213); and

modifying the transmission switching signal in response to the feedback signal (comparator 211, 213 modify signal to P2, and N2).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 6-10 and 20-21 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claim 6, the prior art does not teach a circuit having a control circuit receiving the at least one control signal and modifying the switching signal in response to the feedback control signal.

With respect to claim 14, the prior art does not teach a method having a step of modifying a delay between the first and second switching signals.

With respect to claim 15, the prior art does not teach a mirror current path.

With respect to claim 20, the prior art does not teach a method having a step of defining digital control codes relation to a process detector.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

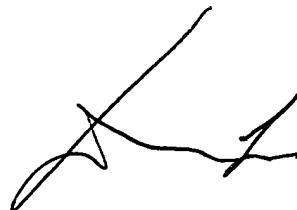
- a. Watson et al. (US 5,309,035) discloses a PVT circuit.
- b. Newman et al. (US 6,326,802) discloses a PVT circuit.
- c. Shin (US 5,683,644) discloses a PVT circuit.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Don P Le whose telephone number is 703-308-4890. The examiner can normally be reached on 7AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J Tokar can be reached on 703-305-3493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

9/20/03



DON LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER